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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SECDEF WASHDC
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AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL IZMIR
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CINCUSAFE
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1572

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO PFOR GR TU
SUBJ: TURKISH MILITARY EXERCISES IN THE AEGEAN

REF: A) ANKARA 2034 (DTG 181430Z MAR 77)(NOTAL);
B) STATE 059651 (DTG 172044Z MAR 77)(NOTAL)

1. TURKISH PERMREP KIRCA HAS CIRCULATED A NOTE DATED MARCH 17 AIMED AT REBUTTING ELEMENTS OF GREEK POSITION ON MARCH 21-28 TURKISH AEGEAN EXERCISES. NOTE WENT TO SYG LUNS AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE DPC PLUS FRANCE (BUT NOT GREECE) AND ENUMERATED A NUMBER OF GREEK ALLEGATIONS ABOUT THE TURKISH EXERCISES WHICH ANKARA CONSIDERS "TOTALLY UNFOUNDED".

2. TEXT OF TURKISH NOTE FOLLOWS:

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THE TURKISH AIR AND NAVAL FORCES WILL HOLD A REGULAR MANOEUVRE BETWEEN MARCH 21-28 IN THE ENTIRE SEA OF MARMARA, ON INTERNATIONAL WATERS AND AIRSPACE OF THE AEGEAN SEA AND OF THE MEDITERRANEAN. THIS IS ONE OF THE ANNUAL REGULAR MANOEUVRES FOR THE TRAINING OF THE AIR AND NAVAL FORCES.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND IN ORDER TO SAFE-GUARD LIFE AND PROPERTY, THE NECESSARY INFORMATION ABOUT THE SAID MANOEUVRE HAS, AS USUAL, BEEN NOTIFIED TO SEAMEN AND AIRMEN.

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THE GREEK EMBASSY IN ANKARA, THROUGH VARIOUS DEMARCHES, HAS DEMANDED SOME CHANGES IN THE NOTAM ISSUED BY THE TURKISH AUTHORITIES. THE MODIFICATIONS REQUESTED WERE INTENDED TO CHANGE THE ALTITUDE WITHIN WHICH THE MANOEUVRE IS TO TAKE PLACE AS WELL AS ITS AREA. AMONG THE GREEK EMBASSY COMPLAINTS, IT WAS STATED THAT CODE NUMBERS WERE ALLOCATED BY THE TURKISH FORCES TO VARIOUS REGIONS ON THE HIGH SEAS AND THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WAS AGAINST THE CONTINUOUS ESTABLISHMENT OF MANOEUVRE REGIONS IN THOSE SEAS. IT IS HOWEVER TO BE NOTED THAT GREECE HAS, IN THE PAST, CREATED SUCH MANOEUVRE REGIONS BY ALLOCATING CODE NUMBERS SUCH AS LGD 62, LGD 65 AND LGD 68 IN THE AEGEAN SEA.

THE GREEK EMBASSY HAS ALSO STATED THAT THE MANOEUVRE COORDINATES WERE 8 MILES CLOSE TO THE ISLAND OF MYTELENE AND THAT THIS VIOLATED THE 10-MILE AIRSPACE CLAIMED BY GREECE. IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT ALTHOUGH THE LIMIT OF GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS IS 6 MILES, GREECE CLAIMS AN AIRSPACE OF 10 MILES; A CLAIM WHICH IS UNPRECEDENTED AS FAR AS INTERNATIONAL RULES ARE CONCERNED AND NOT RECOGNIZED BY TURKEY.

THE GREEK EMBASSY, AMONG OTHERS, HAS ALLEGED THAT THE MANOEUVRE AREA VIOLATES THE LIMNI AIR CONTROL REGION. IT SHOULD BE STATED THAT THIS REGION HAS UNILATERALLY AND ARBITRARILY BEEN ESTABLISHED BY GREECE AND COVERS AND AREA OF 3000 SY. KM ON THE INTERNATIONAL WATERS.

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IN RESPONSE TO A REPRESENTATION BY THE GREEK AMBASSADOR IN ANKARA, THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF TURKEY HAS DRAWN THE ATTENTION OF THE AMBASSADOR TO THE FACT THAT THE MODIFICATIONS REQUESTED BY GREECE WOULD AMOUNT TO HAVE GREEK SOVEREIGNTY CLAIMS ON THE HIGH SEAS BE ACCEPTED BY TURKEY. THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS ALSO STATED THAT GREECE WAS TRYING TO CREATE CERTAIN RIGHTS BY MEANS OF UNILATERAL DECISIONS AND PRACTICES. MR CAGLAYANGIL IN CONCLUSION EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE AEGEAN SEA WOULD BE A SEA OF PEACE BETWEEN TWO NEIGHBOURS RATHER THAN A SEA OF CONTENTION AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY WAS READY TO COOPERATE TO THIS END.

THE ABOVE-MENTIONED GREEK ALLEGATIONS, AS CAN BE SEEN, ARE TOTALLY UNFOUNDED. BOTH AIR TRAFFIC AND NAVIGATION WILL, IN ESSENCE, BE NOT AFFECTED BY THE MANOEUVRE. HOWEVER, IF SHOULD BE BORN IN MIND THAT GREECE HAS IN THE PAST MORE FREQUENTLY CONDUCTED SUCH MANOEUVRES AND HAS CLOSED A GREATER REGION IN THE AEGEAN TO TRAFFIC FOR A LONGER PERIOD. A RECENT EXAMPLE DATES BACK TO APRIL 1976 WHEN GREECE FOR 21 DAYS CLOSED A REGION WHICH EXTENDED ON THE EAST FROM THE TURKISH TERRITORIAL WATERS, TO THE ADRIATIC SEA ON THE WEST AND SOUTH OF THE ISLAND OF CRETE ON THE SOUTH.
END TEXT.STRAUSZ-HUPE

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